

Office of the Mayor

July 26, 2013

Chairwoman Ruth Y. Goldway
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Dear Chairwoman Goldway,

I am the Mayor of Berkeley, a resident of the City as well as a customer of the Berkeley Main Post Office located at 2000 Alston Way in Berkeley, California. I am personally appealing the sale of the Berkeley Main Post Office because this transaction is not a relocation of services it is in fact a sale of the historic building.

USPS issued a final determination letter with no right for further administrative or judicial review dated July 18, 2013 stating that they intend to forge ahead with their plan to relocate retail services. The Postal Service is calling it a "relocation of retail services" but they have not identified a place to relocate, and I believe that there is no suitable location in area code 94704 to which to move retail services to. Under the guise of 'relocating retail services' from the Berkeley Main Post Office, the Postal Service is putting the historic Berkeley Main Post Office building up for sale. I am appealing on the grounds that this transaction is, in fact, a sale, and not a 'relocation' and therefore comes under the purview of the Postal Regulatory Commission.

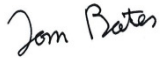
In the final determination letter issued to the City, the Postal Service upholds its April 19th decision to relocate retail services and holds out the possibility of a lease back option so that they can continue their retail operation at the Berkeley Main Post Office. I believe this is a likely scenario - sale with a lease back at the same location because there is no viable location to relocate retail services to. This is playing semantic games with the public trust and contributes to public distrust of government. The Postal Service should have a site located and secured before it puts a successful public service up for sale. If the Postal Service has a place to relocate the retail postal service other than 2000 Alston Way (its current location), it should be required to make it known prior to moving ahead with a scam relocation.

The current Berkeley Main Post Office is centrally located a block from a major transit hub and can provide off-street parking. There are very few appropriate building vacancies in the Downtown Berkeley 94704 zip code. They are all expensive to rent, too large or too small, and without convenient off-street parking. The Berkeley Main Post Office serves a large number of customers and no other location is both affordable and spacious enough for similar services.

I assume this letter will register my appeal to the Postal Regulatory Commission. Please advise when and where my appeal will be considered. I hope and expect that the appeal will be a public procedure I and others will be able to present our case.

If more information is needed I will be happy to supply it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Bates".

Tom Bates

Mayor

cc: Congresswoman Barbara Lee